

X15

Wolsey, Matthew A

From: Ibrahim Hooper [ihooper@cair-net.org]
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2006 9:07 PM
To: Wolsey, Matthew A
Cc: Gourlay, Elizabeth P
Subject: CAIR Seeks Info on U.S. Muslim Detained in Bangladesh

RELEASED IN FULL

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

CAIR SEEKS INFO ON U.S. MUSLIM DETAINED IN BANGLADESH

(WASHINGTON, D.C., 4/19/2006) - A prominent national Islamic civil rights and advocacy group today said it is seeking information on the condition of an American Muslim who was reportedly detained in Bangladesh.

The Washington-based Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) said the family of 19-year-old Ehsanul Islam Sadequee reported that he was taken into custody April 17 by armed security personnel in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital city.

Sadequee was born in Fairfax, Va., is a resident of Atlanta, Ga., and has a sister in Michigan. His family says he was visiting Bangladesh in order to get married and has been ill recently. They suspect he was targeted by Bangladeshi authorities based on information from U.S. law enforcement agencies that have been periodically interviewing family members in this country since August of last year.

CAIR says it is concerned about Sadequee's health and the conditions of his detention. Officials with the American embassy in Bangladesh are apparently aware of the case.

"It is important that American officials monitor this case to make sure that all customary norms of international law and humane treatment are maintained," said CAIR Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper. He urged embassy officials to visit Sadequee in detention.

Hooper noted that the State Department's "2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices" says Bangladesh's "human rights record remained poor, and the government continued to commit numerous serious abuses." According to the report, abuses include "arbitrary arrest," "impunity for security forces," and "physical and psychological torture."

SEE: 2005 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61705.htm>

CAIR, America's largest Islamic civil liberties group, has 32 offices and chapters nationwide and in Canada. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

- END -

CONTACT: CAIR Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper, 202-488-8787 or 202-744-7726, E-Mail: ihooper@cair-net.org; CAIR Communications Coordinator Rabiah Ahmed, 202-488-8787 or 202-439-1441, E-Mail: rahmed@cair-net.org

CAIR
 Council on American-Islamic Relations
 453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
 Washington, D.C. 20003
 Tel: 202-488-8787, 202-744-7726
 Fax: 202-488-0833
 E-mail: cair@cair-net.org
 URL: <http://www.cair-net.org>